

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, XG, GC

SUBJ: STOPH ON PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AND THE LIBERATION
FROM FASCISM

1. SUMMARY: IN AN OTHERWISE PREDICTABLE SPEECH HONORING THE
31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION FROM
FASCISM, SED STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN WILLI STOPH TOOK A
HARD LINE ON PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM AS GDR NEWS SERVICE
ADN ANNOUNCED THAT THE ECPC DRAFTING COMMISSION HAD ADJOURNED
ON MAY 6 BUT HAD AGREED TO MEET IN JUNE AND TO HOLD AN
ECPC "IN THE NEAR FUTURE". END SUMMARY.

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2. IN A SPEECH DELIVERED AT A STATE CEREMONY IN EAST BERLIN MARKING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION FROM FASCISM, SED STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND POLITBURO MEMBER WILLI STOPH TOOK A HARDER LINE THAN USUAL IN SUPPORT OF PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM JUST ONE DAY AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ECPC DRAFTING COMMISSION UNTIL JUNE. STOPH EMPLOYED THE GDR'S LATEST CATCH PHRASE ON PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM IN DESCRIBING THE SED AS A "COMBAT UNIT" OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S MOVEMENT AND STATED THAT THE SED CONSIDERED SUPPORT FOR THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET UNION TO BE THE DECIDING CRITERION FOR FAITHFULNESS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS.

3. THE REMAINDER OF STOPH'S SPEECH CONTAINS NOTHING BEYOND THE PREDICTABLE THEMES: THE DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY AS A TURNING POINT IN WORLD HISTORY THAT FURTHERED THE GROWTH OF SOCIALISM IN THE WORLD; THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GDR'S "INDESTRUCTIBLE" FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION; THE NECESSITY OF PURSUING DETENTE ON THE BASIS OF THE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED AT THE CPSU 25TH PARTY CONGRESS; AND THE DUTY OF THE SED NINTH PARTY CONGRESS TO FURTHER THE BUILDING OF A "DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY" IN THE GDR AND CREATE THE PRECONDITIONS FOR A "GRADUAL TRANSITION TO COMMUNISM."

4. IN DISCUSSING THE DEFEAT OF FASCISM, STOPH PRAISES THE ENTIRE ANTI-HITLER COALITION AND THE ANTIFASCISTS OF MANY LANDS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST HITLER, BUT MAINTAINS THAT THE HEAVIEST BURDEN OF THE WAR WAS BORNE BY THE "GLORIOUS SOVIET ARMY." ALTHOUGH HE COMES OUT FOR DETENTE, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT, STOPH ALSO VOICES SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IN HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES, STOPH TAKES NOTE OF THE "UNSTOPPABLE FLOOD OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" AND NOTES THAT CUBA HAD UNFURLED THE BANNER OF SOCIALISM "BEFORE THE GATES OF THE USA" WHILE VIETNAM HAD TRIUMPHED IN AN HEROIC STRUGGLE AGAINST "THE STRONGEST IMPERIALIST POWER."

5. COMMENT: STOPH'S REMARKS ON PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM
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WERE MADE THE SAME DAY THAT GDR NEWS SERVICE ADN ANNOUNCED THAT THE ECPC DRAFTING COMMISSION HAD ADJOURNED ON MAY 6 AFTER AGREEING TO HOLD A FINAL DRAFTING COMMISSION MEETING SOMETIME IN JUNE AND ECPC "IN THE NEAR FUTURE" IN EAST BERLIN, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THERE MAY STILL BE SOME EDGES TO ROUND OFF ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE.

6. DESPITE A REFERENCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE FAMILIAR OBSERVATION THAT IMPERIALISM HAS NOT LOST ITS AGGRESSIVE CHARACTER, THE GENERAL TONE OF STOPH'S COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS MILD AND IN SUPPORT OF DETENTE. THE OVERRIDING MESSAGE IN HIS REMARKS IS THE GDR'S TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO THE SOVIET UNION AS SYMBOLIZED IN THE SOVIET GDR TREATY OF OCTOBER 7, 1975. IT ALL AMOUNTS TO THE SAME LINE WE HAVE HEARD INNUMERABLE TIMES IN THE PAST.
GROVE

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